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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W
----------231721Z 058741 /41
P R 231552Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9656
INFO AMEMBASSY NAKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2658

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: TURKISH MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ATHENS 2604

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PRESS COVERAGE OF THE TURKISH AIR AND NAVAL EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN CONTINUES TO SUGGEST THAT THE GOG IS TRYING, THROUGH ITS BACKGROUND BRIEFING AND OTHER STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, TO MAINTAIN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL NEWSPAPERS TODAY (MARCH 23) REPORT THAT THE TURKISH EXERCISES HAVE CONTINUED TO TAKE PLACE WITHOUT ANY VIOLATIONS OF GREEK AIR-SPACE OR TERRITORIAL WATERS. IN ADDITION, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AVEROFF IS QUOTED WIDELY AS REPEATING HIS EARLIER COMMENTS (RETEL) SAYING THAT, ALTHOUGH THE TURKISH
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MILITARY EXERCISES MAY HAVE MADE COMMUNICATIONS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT, COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE AEGEAN ISLANDS HAD NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED. ANOTHER AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE ADDED THAT ALL AIR AND SEA TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULES IN THE AEGEAN ARE BEING CARRIED OUT NORMALLY.

2. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS MET WITH

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AVEROFF AT THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE YESTERDAY BUT
ADDS THAT IT WAS ANNOUNCED THE MEETING WAS "ROUTINE."
THE PRESS ALSO CARRIED REPORTS FROM ANKARA THAT THE TURKISH
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MET YESTERDAY IN A SPECIAL SESSION
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRESIDENT KORUTURK IN CONNECTION
WITH THE TURKISH EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN. ANOTHER ANKARA
REPORT QUOTED MILLIYET AS SAYING THAT THE GOG HAD COMPLAINED
TO NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS ABOUT THE TURKISH EXERCISES,
FOLLOWING WHICH THE TURKISH MISSION CIRCULATED A MEMORANDUM
TO ALL NATO MEMBERS EXPLAING THE TURKISH POSITION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL; THE HELLENIC AIR STAFF
(HAS) INFORMED THE AIR ATTACHE TODAY THAT THERE HAD
BEEN VERY LITTLE TURKISH AIR OR NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE
EXERCISE AREAS IN QUESTION IN THE AEGEAN SO FAR (ONLY A FEW
AIRCRAFT AND A SMALL NUMBER OF SHIPS HAD BEEN OBSERVED) AND
NO OBSERVED GUNFIRE. THE HAS OFFICERS DESCRIBED THE EXERCISE
AS A NON-EVENT, AT LEAST TO DATE.

4. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE LEARNED ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT
THE GOG HAS SCHEDULED A NAVAL EXERCISE IN THE
"CENTRAL AEGEAN" TO BEGIN MARCH 29, AS PART OF
ITS REGULAR EXERCISE PROGRAM. WE WILL BE GETTING
DETAILS ABOUT THIS TOMORROW. END CONFIDENTIAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AIRSPACE, TERRITORIAL WATERS, MILITARY EXERCISES, AEGEAN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3029428
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, TU, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1eaeaab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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